

# The Public Trust

In 1977 the City of Milwaukee adopted an ethics code for its elected officials, employees, and various board/commission members. The ethics code provides the best vehicle to assure the community that its officials recognize that the holding of public office is a public trust.

Ethical conduct is truly a matter of performing one's duties and responsibilities in accordance with established rules and guidelines of good, sound judgement. Showing strict regard for ethical conduct is essential in order to maintain high public esteem. Our public officials are very concerned with this issue.

The community, in turn, should be equally concerned with the rights and reputation of its dedicated public officials.

Public cooperation is required to assist the Ethics Board in maintaining Milwaukee's reputation for high ethical standards and conduct.



## Your Ethics Board

### CHAIR

**Dwight H. Ellis**

*Since Dec. 2003*  
Public Policy Forum

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*Since Sept. 2002*  
Milwaukee Branch – N.A.A.C.P.

### PAST CHAIR

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League of Women Voters of Milw. County

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Interfaith Conference of Greater Milw.

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*Since June 2002*  
Metro. Milwaukee Assoc. of Commerce

### Patricia A. Hintz

*Since April 2005*  
Milwaukee Bar Association

### Annie Wacker

*Since Oct. 2005*  
Milwaukee County Labor Council

## City of Milwaukee - Ethics Board

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## Ethics Code

Does it apply to me?

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What is it?

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What can I do to help  
strengthen Ethics in  
Milwaukee's Government?

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FAQs on the Ethics Code for  
City Employees and Officials

## What is the Ethics Code?

The City of Milwaukee Code of Ethics:

- Describes conduct required of all city employees and officials.
  - Prohibits activities that would create a conflict of interest.
  - Creates the Board of Ethics.
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## Who is covered?

- All city employees.
  - Office holders and candidates for public office.
  - Citizens serving on boards and commissions.
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## What can I do to strengthen Ethics in Milwaukee's government?

- Conduct yourself ethically using good judgment and common sense.
- Act with integrity and concern for the public interest, the code demands it.
- Avoid conflicts of interest, in fact or appearance.
- Remember that everyone's actions add to or subtract from the city's reputation for high moral and ethical standards.
- Ask questions.

## Do I have any guidelines?

Yes, below are some general guidelines:

- A city employee or official should not accept anything of value which could appear to influence his/her public duties.
- A city employee or official should not accept anything of value which could appear to be a reward for action taken in his/her public duties.
- A city employee or official should not use his/her public position for personal gain or for the gain of immediate family members or for organizations in which he/she has an interest.
- A city employee or official should not use work place information, which is unavailable to the public, for personal gain
- Contracts of over \$3,000 between a city employee or official and the city are prohibited without written disclosure to the Ethics Board and to the contracting department.
- A city employee or official should not represent persons, for compensation, before city departments, commissions, or boards unless as part of his/her official duties or at a recorded open hearing.
- For a period of 12 months after leaving city employment, an employee or official may not represent, for compensation, persons before city departments, commissions or boards related to his/her former position.

## Do I have to file a financial statement?

Some individuals, as determined by the Code and by the Common Council's Positions Ordinance, are required to file an annual financial statement. If required to file, you will receive a statement.

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## What does the Board of Ethics do?

The Board works to implement the City's Code by:

- Issuing confidential advisory opinions to covered persons about their own situation or plan.
  - Investigating sworn complaints from covered persons, the general public, or the Board itself.
  - Requiring and reviewing annual financial statements – a simple form that asks for information on issues that could indicate a potential conflict of interest.
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## What if I have questions?

Contact your Ethics Board at 414-286-8641 or send an e-mail to [ethics@milwaukee.gov](mailto:ethics@milwaukee.gov)

The entire Code of Ethics is available on the Ethics Board website, or your department head should have a copy.